

STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

DOCKET NO. 99-872

February 29, 2000

HAMPDEN WATER DISTRICT
Proposed Revision to Terms and Conditions
and Request for Exemption from Chapter 86,
Section 7(B)

ORDER APPROVING
TERMS & CONDITIONS
AND EXEMPTION FROM
CHAPTER 86, SECTION 7(B)

WELCH, Chairman; NUGENT and DIAMOND, Commissioners

SUMMARY OF ORDER

This Order approves the Terms and Conditions submitted by Hampden Water District and grants the requested exemption from Chapter 86, Section 7(B) to permit a \$10 collection trip fee for non-residential customers.

BACKGROUND

On December 2, 1999, the Hampden Water District filed proposed changes to its schedule of Terms and Conditions and requested an exemption from Chapter 86, Section 7(B). The schedule of Terms and Conditions, consisting of original Pages 1 through 6, was proposed to become effective on January 2, 2000.

The proposed revisions will establish a procedure for and set a fee associated with the disconnection of single-metered, multi-unit dwellings as required by Chapter 81, Section 9; will increase the reconnection and establishment of service fees; will impose a late payment charge at the maximum rate allowed by Chapter 870; and will impose a returned check fee.

The District is reminded that Chapter 870, Section 1(G) requires that the District disclose to the affected customers the interest rate and methods which will be used to calculate late payment charges at least 60 days before a late payment charge program is initiated. Every bill issued after an approved late payment charge program begins must state the due date of the bill and the effective monthly interest rate that will be imposed if the bill is not paid by the due date.

The District also requested an exemption from Chapter 86, Section 7(B) to permit the District to collect a \$10 collection trip fee from non-residential customers as well as residential customers. The District based its request on the fact that Chapter 81 allows a utility to assess a \$10 collection trip fee from residential customers and Chapter 86 allows a collection trip fee of only \$5 from non-residential customers. The exemption will allow the District to assess the same fee for all customers. We agree that the collection fees for residential and non-residential customers should be equal and will grant the requested exemption.

We have reviewed the proposed Terms and Conditions and will allow them to become effective on the date of this Order.

Accordingly, we

O R D E R

1. That the Hampden Water District schedule of Terms and Conditions, consisting of Original Pages 1 through 6, filed on December 2, 1999, become effective on the date of this Order.
2. That the Hampden Water District is hereby granted an exemption from Chapter 86, Section 7(B) so that it may charge non-residential customers a \$10 collection trip fee.

Dated at Augusta, Maine this 29th day of February, 2000.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Dennis L. Keschl
Administrative Director

COMMISSIONERS VOTING FOR: Welch
Nugent
Diamond

NOTICE OF RIGHTS TO REVIEW OR APPEAL

5 M.R.S.A. § 9061 requires the Public Utilities Commission to give each party to an adjudicatory proceeding written notice of the party's rights to review or appeal of its decision made at the conclusion of the adjudicatory proceeding. The methods of review or appeal of PUC decisions at the conclusion of an adjudicatory proceeding are as follows:

1. Reconsideration of the Commission's Order may be requested under Section 1004 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (65-407 C.M.R.110) within 20 days of the date of the Order by filing a petition with the Commission stating the grounds upon which reconsideration is sought.
2. Appeal of a final decision of the Commission may be taken to the Law Court by filing, within 30 days of the date of the Order, a Notice of Appeal with the Administrative Director of the Commission, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1320(1)-(4) and the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 73 et seq.
3. Additional court review of constitutional issues or issues involving the justness or reasonableness of rates may be had by the filing of an appeal with the Law Court, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1320(5).

Note: The attachment of this Notice to a document does not indicate the Commission's view that the particular document may be subject to review or appeal. Similarly, the failure of the Commission to attach a copy of this Notice to a document does not indicate the Commission's view that the document is not subject to review or appeal.